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LETTER DATED 12 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the continued efforts of the Government of Georgia to prevent arms smuggling and other illegal shipments into Abkhazia, Georgia. Regrettably, there have been numerous incidents involving illegal shipments that have raised concern.

In order to address these issues and to ensure the unimpeded access of humanitarian aid to Abkhazia, Georgia, the President of Georgia passed Special Decree No. 328 on 19 May 1999 bringing into force the Provisional Rules of Navigation to the Seaports of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia.

Pursuant to the Provisional Rules, owners of vessels or cargoes bound for the ports of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, Georgia, whether they are legal or physical persons, shall notify the competent Georgian authorities of their intention. Such notification should contain the name and type of the ship, a description of the cargo and the expected times of arrival and departure from the port of destination. All vessels heading for Abkhazia are subject to inspection at the Georgian port of Poti in specially designated areas.

The marine border checkpoint at Poti will provide clearance for all the vessels mentioned above to cross the border into Georgia.

The legal regime established by the Decree is consonant with United Nations Security Council resolution 876 (1993) of 19 October 1993 on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, in which the Council calls on all States to prevent the provision from their territories or by persons under their jurisdiction of all assistance, other than humanitarian assistance, to the Abkhaz side and in particular to prevent the supply of any weapons and munitions.

Let me again express the hope that the threat of arms smuggling will come into the focus of the Security Council deliberations on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia.

May I ask your kind assistance in having the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

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